



## **TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE**

### **JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER**

*Office of Communications • Mark Dallas Loeffler, Director*  
1700 N. Congress Ave. • Austin, TX 78701-1495 • 512-463-5339 • FAX: 512-475-1415

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Adopt-A-Beach Marine Debris Summit targets trash on beaches**

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13 at Moody Gardens on Galveston Island

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Jim Suydam**  
**512-463-2716**  
**[jim.suydam@glo.texas.gov](mailto:jim.suydam@glo.texas.gov)**

AUSTIN — Diapers, beer cans and cigarette butts - trash on Texas beaches is a growing problem.

Be part of the solution by attending the first-ever Adopt-A-Beach Marine Debris Summit from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 13 at Moody Gardens Convention Center on Galveston Island. The conference is free and open to the public. A complimentary lunch will be served, but seating is limited and registration is required.

Online registration is currently available at [www.texasadoptabeach.org](http://www.texasadoptabeach.org)

World-renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle, chair of the Advisory Board for Texas A&M's Harte Research Institute and Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society, will be the keynote speaker.

The conference will focus on what we all can do about a growing problem on the coast: litterbug beachgoers. Panel discussions will topics such as how to reduce the trash that comes with people driving on the beach - a protected Texas tradition - as well as how to stop the rising tide of dirty diapers among other things.

The Adopt-A-Beach Program at the Texas General Land Office has worked to organize volunteer cleanups of Texas beaches for the past 25 years. Each year, thousands of volunteers band together through the program to remove about 500 tons of marine debris from Texas beaches. But data collected by Adopt-A-Beach volunteers over the years has shown a change in the composition of trash found on Texas beaches. Adopt-A-Beach volunteers are finding less trash from oceangoing vessels, but more trash left behind by careless beachgoers. The Adopt-A-Beach Marine Debris Summit will focus attention on fixing this growing problem.

The Adopt-A-Beach Marine Debris summit will provide a great opportunity for the public to meet with marine debris researchers, natural resource managers, policy makers, industry representatives, university students and anyone else who wants to see Texas beaches at their best.

More information can be found on our website and by calling 1-877-TXCOAST.

The Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Program is funded primarily by private contributions. To help out, or for more information, call the General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST or visit our website at <http://www.texasadoptabeach.org> .

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